

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02750 311220Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 /085 W

-----019818 010013Z /12

R 310845Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7447

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

CINCEUR

UNCLAS ALGIERS 2750

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, SS, MR, MO, SP

SUBJECT: SAHARA: POLISARIO CLAMIS

1. IN A COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED OCTOBER 27 BY ALGERIAN DAILY "EL MOUDJAHID" THE POLISARIO CLAIMED TO HAVE ATTACKED THE ZOUERATT ORE TRAIN ON OCTOBER 23. OVER 6 ENGINES AND CARS WERE SAID TO BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED, AND THE SAHRAOUSI CALIM TO HVE CAPTURED LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND COMMUNICATIONS MATERIAL. AS A RESULT OF THIS ATTACK THE SOUERATT-NOUADHIBOU LINE IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

2. IN ITS OCTOBER 28 EDITION "LE MONDE" STATES THAT TWO FRENCHMEN: CLAUDE MIGUET AND RAYMOND BACLE WERE TAKEN PRISONER BY THE POLISARIO. THE PRESS CLAIMS THAT THE POLISARIO HAVE CAPTURED AT LEAST 8 FRENCHMEN UP TO NOW.

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02750 311220Z

3. ON OCTOBER 28, ALGERIAN DAILY "EL MOUDJAHID" PUBLISHED VARIOUS POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE.

A) THE SAHRAOUI CALIM TO HAVE ATTACKED MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN SOLDIERS IN THE LEKBIA REGION; 22 SOLDIERS WERE CLAIMED KILLED AND SEVERAL OTHERS WOUNDED, 3 LANDROVERS CLAIMED DESTROYED.

B) ON OCTOBER 17 MOROCCAN TROOPS SUFFERED SEVERE LOSSES AT AMGALA, SMARA AND IN THE LAADJAREM REGION; 25 MOROCCAN SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL OTHERS WOUNDED. THE POLISARIO ALSO CLAIMS TO HAVE DESTROYED ONE 106 MM GUN AND SIX HEAVY VEHICLES. ON THE SAME DAY A MOROCCAN TRANSPORT VEHICLE WAS BLOWN UP AS IT WAS PASSING OVER A MINE IN THE PAR-EL-SLAINE REGION.

C) ON OCTOBER 21 AN ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED AGAINST ROYALIST TROOPS IN THE TISKIMATEN REGION (BETWEEN TIFARITI AND BIR LAHLOU). THE POLISARIO CLAIMED 135 DEAD MOROCCAN SOLDIERS, INCLUDING CAPTAIN ABDELKADER ABOUTI, COMMANDER OF THE SECOND COMPANY, 24TH BATTALION AND HIS ASSISTANT, LIEUTENANT BEN HADDOU, 35 SOLDIERS WERE ALSO CLAIMED WOUNDED, INCLUDING 2 OFFICERS. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CLAIMS THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS WERE DESTROYED OR CAPTURED. THE COMMUNIQUE GIVES A LIST WITH THE NAMES AND SERIAL NUMBERS OF THE KILLED SOLDIERS. STEPHAN

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